Journal Entry/Letter Assignment

We have read and discussed how different people perceived the federal city in its early years. As you complete this activity think about what it would have been like to live in the city in its early years. Write either a journal entry or a letter home as if you had just moved to the federal city around 1800. You may have moved from somewhere else in the United States, from Europe, or from Africa. The letter or journal entry must describe:

Your job

Your housing situation

Your opinion of the city

What you do for fun

Any other details about your life as a resident of the federal city around 1800

Be creative with your person’s experience. If you own a tavern what is that like? If you operate a boardinghouse who are your tenants? If you are a laborer what are you working on? What is a day in the life like for your person. Use the primary documents in Ch. 3 as well as our class discussions to help gain more insight into common experiences and viewpoints of the time.

The assignment must be one long journal entry or letter – roughly a page written – or must be 3 shorter journal entries or letters.